

# Town Board Adopts New Law to Help Fight Against Blighted Properties

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**Farmingville, NY** - At the December 16 Town Board Meeting, a new law was adopted which will give the Town another weapon in the fight against blighted properties. The law, entitled "Blighted Property Restoration," was sponsored by Supervisor Ed Romaine and received a unanimous vote in favor by the Town Board. It establishes procedures to identify, abate and eliminate blight throughout Brookhaven town.

"Our Law and Building departments have been making great progress cleaning up blight in the Town," said Supervisor Romaine. "Nearly every community is faced with this problem, some worse than others. Our new law provides us with more authority to better address the issues and improve the quality of life for our residents."

The new law provides criteria that will allow the Town to evaluate and determine whether or not a property is blighted. This is accomplished by a point system that covers five categories, including a threat to health and safety (50 points); fire hazards (50 points); illegal activity (50 points); previous violations (50 points); and various maintenance violations (2 to 30 points each). A property that receives a score of 100 points or more will be deemed blighted and the Town's Law Department will serve notice on the owner to remedy the violations within a time period specified by the Town Attorney. If the violations are not remedied, the owner will be afforded a hearing and the Town shall have the authority to enter onto the property to abate, repair or remove the violations. The cost of remediation will be charged back to the owner as a lien on the property.

## **Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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